

REMARKS

This is a full and timely supplemental response to the outstanding Office Action mailed December 03, 2002. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Present Status of Patent Application

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (US-2002/0012453, "Hashimoto"). Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any inverting claims.

Response to Claims Objections and Rejections

Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any inverting claims.

In order to place the objected claims in condition for allowance, the original claims 1-14 are cancelled, and the original claims 2-5 and 9-12 are rewritten into new claims 15-22 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any inverting claims.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application. Applicants believe that these amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

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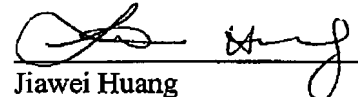
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 15-22 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

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Respectfully submitted,
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